

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 17950 011300Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9850

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17950

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: TINY ROWLAND'S PLAN

1. LONRHO CHIEF EXECUTIVE TINY ROWLAND CALLED EMBASSY OFFICER EVENING OF OCTOBER 31 TO ASK ABOUT THE ITINERARY OF LORD CARVER'S MISSION. ROWLAND COMPLAINED WITH SOME HUMOR THAT CARVER'S PRESENCE IN SALISBURY LATER THIS WEEK HAD FORCED A CANCELLATION OF A THIRD MEETING BETWEEN KAUNDA AND RHODESIAN LEADERS (HE DID NOT SAY SMITH SPECIFICALLY) AND THEREBY POSTPONED A RHODESIA SETTLEMENT THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IN A MATTER OF WEEKS.

2. ROWLAND SAID THE SECOND MEETING LAST WEEK AT MFUWE HAD BEEN ATTENDED BY A CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER AND "THE MILITARY PEOPLE." DISCUSSIONS WENT ON ALL DAY AND FIFTEEN BASIC POINTS OF AGREEMENT HAD EMERGED. HE SAID THE MEETING HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A "BREAKTHROUGH" BY ALL
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WHO ATTENDED.

3. ROWLAND COMMENTED THAT "THINGS HAD DEVELOPED WELL WITH MUGABE" BY WHICH HE MEANT THAT MUGABE HAD RUN A-FOUL OF KAUNDA AND CONSEQUENTLY LOST WHATEVER INFLUENCE HE MIGHT HAVE HAD. ROWLAND CLAIMED NYERERE AND MACHEL NOW ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT NKOMO IS THE ONLY

POSSIBLE LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

4. ROWLAND GAVE ONLY THE VAGUEST OUTLINE OF WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT MFUWE. THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, HE SAID, FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT SMITH CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN A "SELL-OUT" ANY MORE THAN KAUNDA CAN. IT HAD THEREFORE BEEN AGREED AT MFUWE THAT SMITH WOULD BE A MEMBER OF AN ESSENTIALLY BLACK (PRESUMABLY NKOMO-LED) CABINET AND THEREBY OFFER THE BEST GUARANTEE THE WHITE COMMUNITY COULD HOPE FOR. THE ALLEGED PLAN ALSO ENVISAGES A BRIEF TRANSITION PERIOD DURING WHICH A BRITISH COMMISSIONER WOULD SIMPLY TRANSFER POWER TO THIS NEW CONFIGURATION.

5. COMMENT: ROWLAND WAS COY AS ALWAYS, BUT GIVEN HIS UNIQUE INFLUENCE WITH THE THREE PRINCIPALS OF HIS SCENARIO -- KAUNDA, SMITH AND NKOMO -- EVEN HIS HINTS HAVE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. AND KAUNDA'S RECENT REMARKS, SUCH AS HIS CONVERSATION WITH PREM CHAND (DAR 4344), GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS STRIVING FOR A SETTLEMENT WHICH IS NOT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND WHICH PUTS NKOMO AT THE TOP.

BREWSTER

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